15 November 2024

NSW Murray and Lower Darling Regulated Rivers

Water allocation update

General security (GS) licenses in the NSW Murray regulated rivers water source have received **an allocation increase of 3% of their entitlement**. The increment brings the cumulative General Security allocation to 47% in this water source. Average carryover from last year has been 40% of their entitlement. The current GS account balance is about 1,291 gigalitres (GL).

All entitlements in the Lower Darling regulated river water source were fully allocated on 1 July 2024. No further allocation is possible in this water year.

Current allocation (NSW Murray)

15 November 2024	Allocation increment	Account balance
General Security	3%	1,291 GL*

*As of 12 November 2024 plus 3% AWD on 15 November 2024

Held Environmental Water (HEW)

Held Environmental Water represents the total volume credited to accounts (not usage). The volume allocated year to date to General Security is 229 GL, to High Security is 25 GL, to Conveyance is 34 GL. The volume carried over from last year by General Security is 104 GL. These entitlements are held and/or managed either singly or jointly by various environmental holder groups, including the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, The Living Murray and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder. Details on environmental holdings can be found on individual agency websites.

Climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for December 2024 to February 2025 indicates that rainfall is likely to be above median across the catchment. Day and overnight temperatures are likely to be above median over the next three months.

For further details: Overview—Summary - Climate Outlooks (bom.gov.au)

NSW Murray resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution (15 November) for 2024/25	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource [1]	2,301
less	
Carryover [2]	672

PUB24/988

Planned Environmental Water [3]	224
Domestic, Stock and Towns [4]	62
High Security [4]	184
Conveyance	225
Announced General Security (47%)	787
Wakool Allowance [5]	70
Reserves for critical human needs [6]	61

equals

Surplus (or deficit) [7]	16

Notes:

(1) Total available resource - NSW's state share of active storage volume (Hume, Dartmouth, Menindee and Lake Victoria), as accounted for under the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) Agreement at the assessment date; plus any usable flows in transit; plus budgeted 99%ile inflows till 30/5/25; plus expected regulated inflow from Snowy Hydro, plus downstream usage to date. For information, Snowy Hydro's M1 releases since 1/5/24 has been about 571 GL.

(2) Consumptive and Held Environmental Water (HEW) carried over from last water year. General Security water users can carryover a maximum account balance of 50% of their entitlement into the following water year.

(3) This includes 6 GL of Murray Additional Allowance (MAA), 168 GL of Barmah-Millewa Allowance, 50 GL of River Murray Increased Flows (RMIF). The total commitments to MAA, B-MA and RMIF will decrease over the water year as they are released from Hume for use.

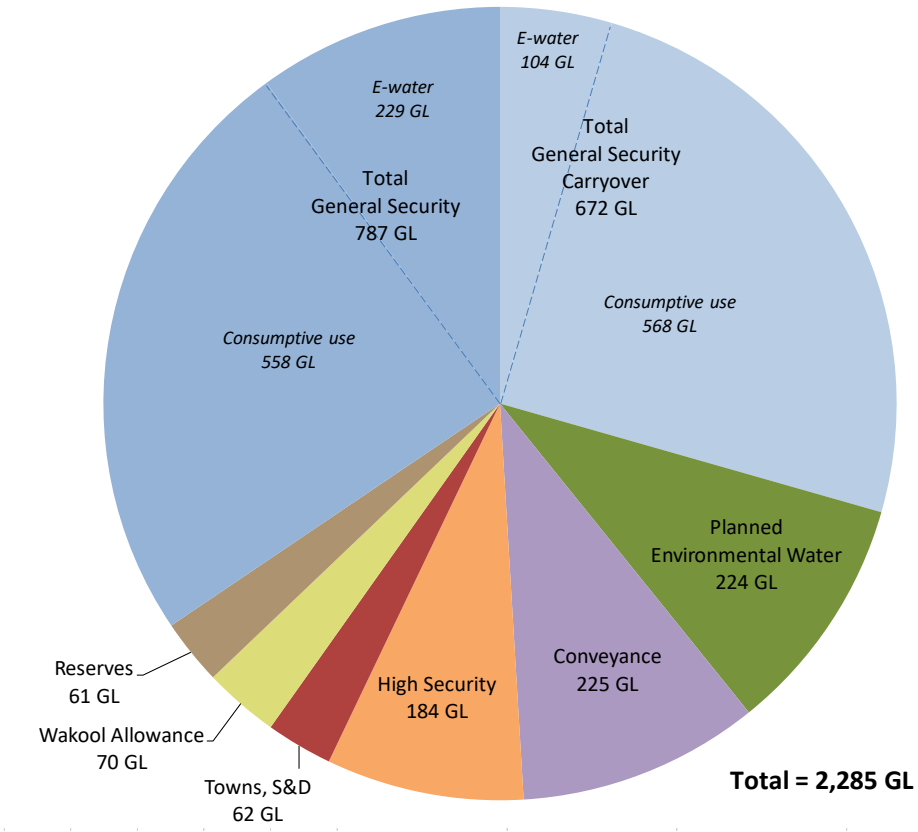
(4) High Security licences received 97% allocation. High Security subcategory licences received 100%. For the purposes of this water allocation statement, the High Security town water supply allocation volume has been grouped under 'Domestic, Stock and Town'.

(5) Wakool Allowance – a conveyance volume necessary for NSW to operate the Edward-Wakool system. Typically, the assessment has been budgeting 70 GL.

(6) Reserves – required primarily under statutory plans, up to 61 GL; set aside for critical human needs in accordance with Clause 11.03 of the Basin Plan.

(7) Surplus (or deficit) of water available after accounting for all commitments. There is a small surplus which will be rolled over to next assessment.

NSW Murray resource distribution 2024/25 – 15 November 2024



State sharing of Murray Resource

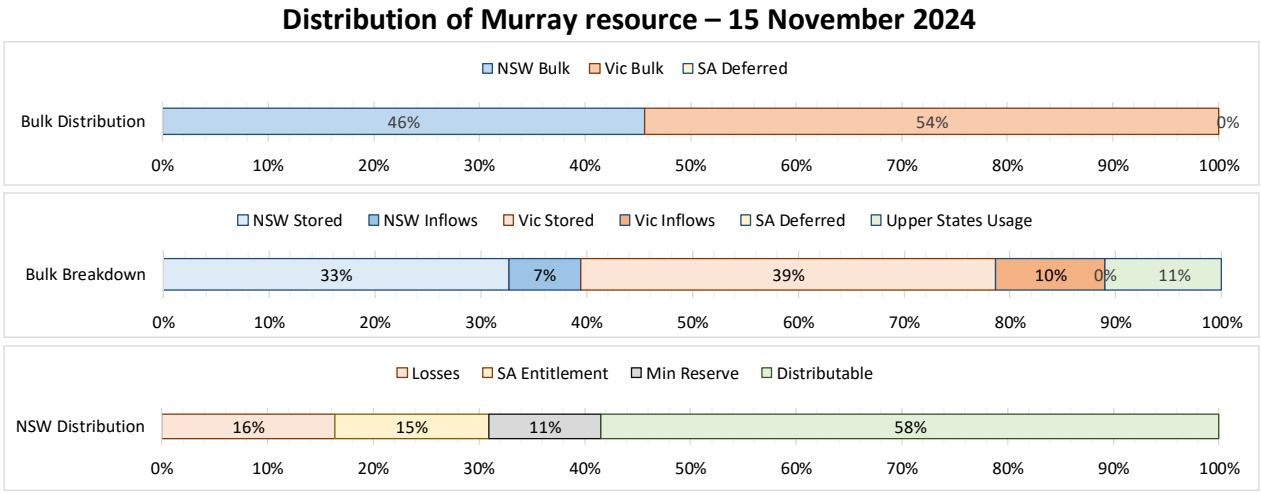
The bulk accounts assessment indicates that around 7,216 GL of total shared Murray resource is available in the extreme dry (99th percentile) case. The NSW share of this resource is approximately 3,323 GL based on the rules in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) Agreement. After removing commitments required under the MDB Agreement, including losses in operating the River Murray System, South Australia's entitlement flow and the minimum reserve, the assessment results in a volume of Murray resource for NSW to allocate of 2,301 GL.

Storage volumes

31 October 2024	Full capacity (GL)	Storage volume (GL/%)	NSW share* (GL/%)
Dartmouth Dam	3,856	3,530 (92%)	1,566 (41%)
Hume Dam	2,982	1,785 (60%)	665 (22%)
Lake Victoria	677	587 (87%)	239 (35%)
Menindee Lakes System	1731	918 (53%)	324 (19%)

*NSW can store up to 50% of full capacity

Distribution of Murray Resources



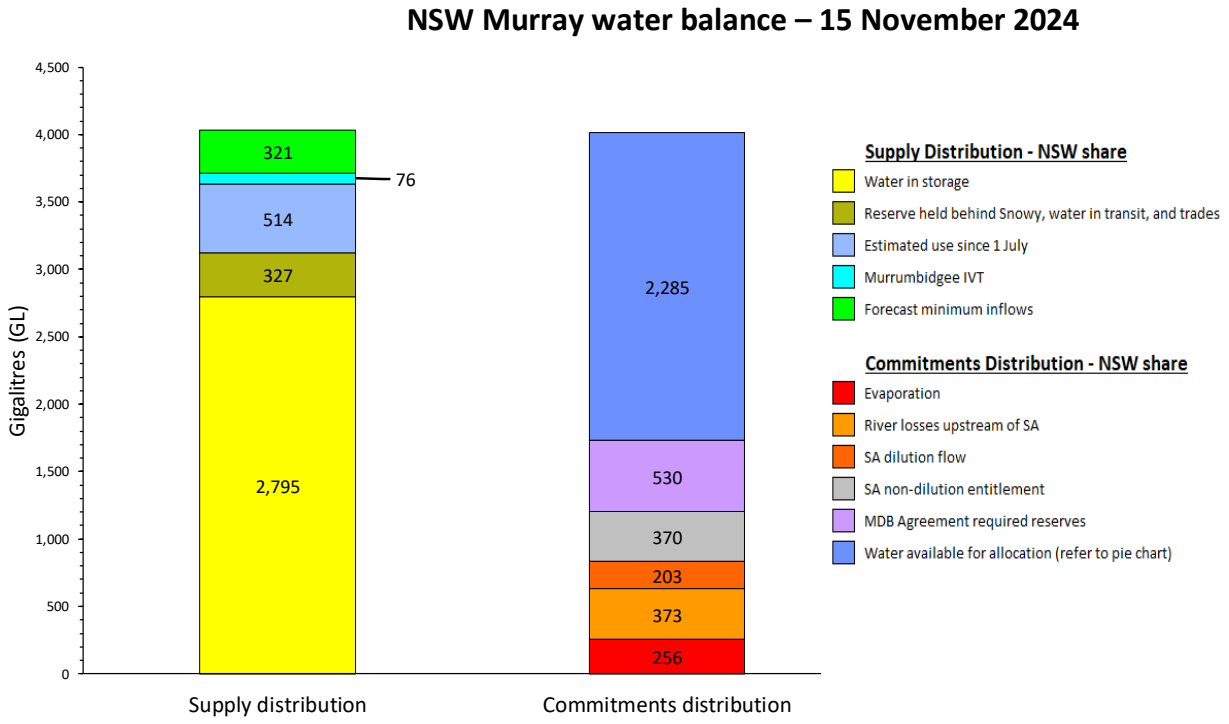
The breakdown of the Murray resources is provided in the graphs above. NSW considers inflow volume that was exceeded 99% of the time historically. The water sharing plan outlines the NSW government's acceptable level of risk, which is the minimum inflow scenario prior to the commencement of the plan (2004). The MDBA's 99% scenario closely aligns with the minimum inflow pre-2004 scenario. Therefore, NSW distributes the volume provided by the MDBA's 99% scenario to satisfy the water sharing plan.

Trade

In the Murray, trade across the Barmah choke remains restricted to **'no net trade downstream'**. Downstream trade opens to the extent of the volume of any upstream trade. Water users are advised to monitor the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) website (Barmah Choke trade rule | Murray–Darling Basin Authority) for information about the trade balance and status of trade across the Barmah choke.

Temporary trade between the Lower Darling and the Murray is open and will likely remain open until the system next falls below 480 GL. Trade within the Lower Darling regulated river water source also remains open.

Trade **out of Murrumbidgee** and **trade into the Murrumbidgee** are **open** (as of 14 November 2024). Water users should monitor the WaterNSW website (**www.waternsw.com.au**) for daily information about the IVT account balance, the status of trade, and other important information. The Murrumbidgee IVT account is operated between limits of 0 GL and 100 GL however the balance can move rapidly. The information presented in this statement is current at the time of writing.



Notes:

- Water in storage: Volumes in the storages (Hume, Dartmouth, Menindee and Lake Victoria) as of 31/10/2024.
- Reserve held behind Snowy, water in transit and trades: include snowy scheme contributions, drought reserve held in snowy, water in transit, and trades.
- Estimated use since 1 July: MDBA estimate of NSW usage 31/10/24, reconciled periodically.
- Forecast inflows: NSW's share of forecast inflows into the River Murray System based on assumed extremely dry future conditions. This includes Snowy Hydro's guaranteed inflows for the water year and Murrumbidgee end of system flows.
- IVT: Total tributary system water bought by Murray system users that is yet to be delivered.
- Evaporation: Water set aside for evaporation for the remainder of the year. Generally, reduces as the year progresses.
- River losses upstream of SA: Water budgeted for transmission losses from the River Murray system upstream of the South Australian border for the remainder of the year. Generally, reduces as the water year progresses.
- SA non-dilution entitlement: Water to supply South Australia's entitlement flow, as required under the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) Agreement. Generally, reduces as water year progresses.
- SA dilution flow: Water to provide South Australia's dilution and conveyance component of flow, as required under the MDB Agreement. Reduces as the year progresses. Note, may include the Additional Dilution Flow (ADF) when triggered.
- MDB Agreement required reserves: Includes conveyance reserve and minimum reserve to be set aside for use in the next water year, as required by the MDB Agreement in clause 102D and 103, respectively.
- Water available for allocation: NSW's bulk share of the resource that can be assigned to NSW Murray entitlement holders based on the Water Sharing Plan. Allocation of this volume is provided in the above table and pie chart.

Chances of improvement

The potential improvements in NSW Murray General Security allocations, based on a repeat of historical inflows, are provided in the table below under a range of conditions from wet to extreme dry. The simulation is based on all available historical data with no consideration of current weather conditions. The simulation is based on inflow variation only without regards for corresponding variation in losses or water usage behaviour.

It is important to note that these estimates are indicative improvements only and are not guaranteed allocations. Estimates are subject to change based on weather conditions, water user behaviour, water management decisions and other events. Water users should use this information with caution and at their own risk, particularly as it projects many months ahead.

Forecast General Security allocations (%)

Any carryover water is to be added to these indicative allocations. However, individual account balances are limited to 110%. The simulations are based on a design water use volumes. However, if actual usages are lower, then the potential storage spills may limit resource improvements. In that case, actual allocations in the wet scenario for the given inflow condition may be lower than the forecast.

Repeat of historical inflow conditions	1 Jan 2025	1 Mar 2025
99 chances in 100 (extreme) (99%)	47%	47%
9 chances in 10 (very dry) (90%)	50%	62%^
3 chances in 4 (dry) (75%)	53%	69%^
1 chance in 2 (mean) (50%)	56%	110%*
1 chance in 4 (wet) (25%)	110%*	110%*

Note 1: Estimated values indicative only, not guaranteed and subject to change based on actual events unfolding.
Note 2: Statistical values reflect NSW share of inflows, not whole of system inflows.
Note 3: Forecast incorporates Murrumbidgee regulated end of system flows.
*maximum possible, ^potential account spill

Allocations in 2024/25

Table 1: Water allocation history in 2024/25 for the NSW Murray River Water Source

Date	**License Category**	**Increment**	**Total 2024/25**
1-Jul	Domestic, Stock & Towns	100%*	100%*
1-Jul	High Security	0.97 ML/unit share	0.97 ML/unit share
1-Jul	Conveyance	0.6359 ML/unit share	0.6359 ML/unit share
1-Jul	General Security	0.35 ML/unit share	0.35 ML/unit share
15-Jul	Conveyance	0.0272 ML/unit share	0.6631 ML/unit share
15-Jul	General Security	0.07 ML/unit share	0.42 ML/unit share
15-Aug	Conveyance	0.0078 ML/unit share	0.6709 ML/unit share
15-Aug	General Security	0.02 ML/unit share	0.44 ML/unit share
15-Nov	Conveyance	0.0116 ML/unit share	0.6825 ML/unit share
15-Nov	General Security	0.03 ML/unit share	0.47 ML/unit share

*Maximum allowable

Table 2: Water allocation history in 2024/25 for the Lower Darling River Water Source

Date	**License Category**	**Increment**	**Total 2024/25**	**Account Balance**
1-Jul	Domestic, Stock & Towns	100%*	100%*	100%*
1-Jul	High Security	1 ML/unit share*	1 ML/unit share*	100%*
1-Jul	General Security	1 ML/unit share*	1 ML/unit share*	100%*

* Maximum allowable

Water Allocation Guide

The NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water produced a series of guides to describe the water allocation methods for most NSW regulated river systems. The guides for these water sources are available at the following link:
Resource assessment process | Water (nsw.gov.au)

Further information

The next statement for these water sources will be published on **Monday, 2:30 pm, 2 December 2024.**

Kindly note that the first water allocation statement for these water sources in 2025 will be published on Wednesday, 15 January 2025 or earlier if there is significant resource improvement.

Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the department's website: NSW Government Water

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